



FIELD CROPS

CROP PRODUCTION

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October 12, 2012

Florida

Weather: Frequent rainfall during September was beneficial to growing crops. Although soil moisture was adequate, the rainfall often hindered field activities. At the end of September, the majority of the corn was harvested, cotton defoliation was underway, and nearly 40 percent of the peanut crop was harvested. There was evidence that the cotton crop in some areas had been adversely affected by extended periods of wet weather that caused fungal disease.

Cotton: Based on conditions as of October 1, growers expected to harvest 105,000 acres, down 13,000 acres or 11 percent from last year. Yield is forecast at a record 960 pounds per acre. Production is estimated at 210,000 bales, up 27,000 bales or 15 percent from 2011.

Peanuts: Harvested acreage is estimated at 200,000 acres, up 43,000 acres or 27 percent from a year ago. Yield is expected to average a record 3,700 pounds per acre, up 200 pounds from the previous year. Total expected production is at 740 million pounds, up 35 percent from last year's 549.5 million pounds.

Pecans: Florida's utilized production of pecans is forecasted to be 2.0 million pounds, only half the 4.0 million pounds harvested a year earlier. Production of improved varieties at 1.4 million pounds is unchanged from 2011. However, production of native varieties is projected to total 600,000 pounds compared to 2.6 million pounds the previous year.

Sugarcane: All acreage for harvest is set at 410,000 acres, up 3 percent from last season. Expected yield is set at 38.0 tons per acre, the same as the previous year. Production for sugar and seed is estimated 15.58 million tons, up 3 percent from a year ago.

United States

Cotton: Production is forecast at 17.3 million 480-pound bales, up 1 percent from last month and up 11 percent from last year. Yield is expected to average 795 pounds per acre, up 5 pounds from last year. Upland cotton production is forecast at 16.6 million 480-pound bales, up 13 percent from 2011. Pima cotton production, forecast at 657,000 bales, was carried forward from last month. As of September 30, 42 percent of the cotton acreage was rated in good to excellent condition compared with 29 percent this time last year. Seventy-eight percent of the crop had bolls opening by September 30, three percentage point behind last year but 5 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Fourteen percent of the crop had been harvested by September 30, one percentage point behind both last year and the five-year average. Wet conditions delayed fieldwork in parts of the Delta and Southeast during much of September. However, by the end of the month, drier conditions allowed fieldwork to gain momentum. Record high yields are forecast in Arizona, Florida, and Georgia. In Texas, objective yield data forecasted boll weights to be higher than last year but below the 10-year average.

Peanuts: Production is forecast at 6.11 billion pounds, up 3 percent from the September forecast and up 67 percent from last year's revised production of 3.66 billion pounds. Area for harvest is expected to total 1.59 million acres, unchanged from September and 48 percent higher than 2011. Based on conditions as of September 1, the average yield for the United States is forecast at a record high 3,832 pounds per acre, up 118 pounds from September and up 446 pounds from last year. Record high yields are also expected in Florida and Georgia, and yields will tie record highs in North Carolina and Oklahoma, if realized. Harvest was underway in all States by the end of September. As of September 30, 22 percent of the United States acreage was harvested, 5 percentage points ahead of last year and 6 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Crop condition improved slightly from last month, with 79 percent rated good to excellent as of September 30.

Pecans: Production is forecast at 309 million pounds (utilized, in-shell basis), up 14 percent from 2011. Improved varieties are expected to produce 253 million pounds or 82 percent of the total. The native and seedling varieties are expected to produce 55.9 million pounds, making up the remaining 18 percent of production. In Georgia, despite the "off" year in the alternate bearing cycle for pecans, the crop is expected to be good due to favorable weather conditions. In New Mexico, increased production is expected due to mild conditions and reports of more orchards coming into production. In Texas, producers reported an increase for the 2012 crop as growing conditions improved from the previous year.

Sugarcane: Production of sugarcane for sugar and seed in 2012 is forecast at 31.3 million tons, up 1 percent from the September 1 forecast and up 6 percent from 2011. Producers intend to harvest 898,000 acres for sugar and seed during the 2012 crop year, up 5,000 acres from the previous forecast. Expected yield for sugar and seed is forecast at 34.8 tons per acre, up 0.1 ton from the September 1 forecast. The sugarcane crop in Florida and Louisiana benefitted from adequate rainfall during September. In Louisiana, harvest was slowed due to some lodging of the crop caused by Hurricane Isaac.

Crop Production: Acreage for Harvest and Forecasts of Yield and Production for Florida and United States as of October 1, 2012 with Comparisons

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun.]

Crop	Harvested acreage		Yield per acre		Unit	Production	
	2011	For harvest 2012	2011	Indicated 2012		2011	Indicated 2012
	(thousands)	(thousands)				(thousands)	(thousands)
FLORIDA							
Cotton ¹	118.0	105.0	744.0	960.0	(1)	183.0	210.0
Peanuts ²	157.0	200.0	3,500.0	3,700.0	pounds	549,500.0	740,000.0
Pecans, All.....					pounds	4,000.0	2,000.0
Improved Varieties.....					pounds	1,400.0	1,400.0
Native and Seedling					pounds	2,600.0	600.0
Potatoes:							
Spring	35.6	36.3	256.0	260.0	cwt	9,112.0	9,438.0
Sugarcane	397.0	410.0	38.0	38.0	ton	15,085.0	15,580.0
UNITED STATES							
Corn for Grain	83,981.0	87,721.0	147.2	122.0	bushels	12,358,412.0	10,705,729.0
Cotton, All ¹	9,460.9	10,443.4	790.0	795.0	(1)	15,573.2	17,287.0
Hay, Alfalfa	19,213.0	18,812.0	3.40	2.95	ton	65,332.0	55,566.0
Hay, All Other	36,420.0	38,762.0	1.81	1.71	ton	65,812.0	66,408.0
Peanuts for Nuts ²	1,080.6	1,594.0	3,386.0	3,832.0	pounds	3,658,590.0	6,108,150.0
Pecans, All.....					pounds	269,700.0	308,600.0
Improved Varieties.....					pounds	227,030.0	252,750.0
Native and Seedling					pounds	42,670.0	55,850.0
Potatoes:							
Spring	91.5	96.1	279.0	289.0	cwt	25,573.0	27,740.0
Summer.....	46.0	49.0	280.0	356.0	cwt	12,894.0	17,447.0
Fall.....	939.5	990.8	416.0		cwt	391,180.0	
Rice	2,618.0	2,677.0	7,067.0	7,428.0	(3)	185,009.0	198,860.0
Sorghum for Grain	3,929.0	5,016.0	54.6	50.2	bushels	214,443.0	251,977.0
Soybeans for Beans.....	73,776.0	75,693.0	41.9	37.8	bushels	3,093,524.0	2,860,290.0
Sugarbeets	1,213.1	1,215.5	23.8	29.3	ton	28,828.0	35,597.0
Sugarcane for							
Sugar and Seed.....	872.6	898.0	33.7	34.8	ton	29,383.0	31,277.0
Sweet Potatoes.....	129.7	128.5	208.0		cwt	26,964.0	
Tobacco, All	325.0	338.1	1,841.0	2,308.0	pounds	598,320.0	780,428.0
Wheat, All:	45,705.0	48,991.0	43.7	46.3	bushels	1,999,347.0	2,269,117.0
Winter.....	32,314.0	34,834.0	46.2	47.2	bushels	1,493,677.0	1,645,202.0
Durum	1,312.0	2,102.0	38.5	39.0	bushels	50,482.0	81,956.0
Other Spring.....	12,079.0	12,055.0	37.7	45.0	bushels	455,188.0	541,959.0

¹ Production ginned and to be ginned. Yield in pounds, production in 480 pound net weight bales.

² Revised.

³ Yield in pounds, production in cwt. Includes sweet rice production.